WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume III
Number 3

August
1950

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY AUG 8 1950 LIBRARY

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 1950 meeting of the West Virginia Library Association will be held in Charleston on October 20 and 21, 1950. The meetings will be held in the Daniel Boone Hotel, which will be headquarters. There will be a banquet on the night of October 20th at the Daniel Boone: negotiations are underway for a prominent speaker, Rates for rooms at the Daniel Boone Hotel are as follows:

Single room - $3-6
Double room - $7-10

Reservations should be made directly with the hotel and will be confirmed.

The majority of the members who expressed an opinion on the question of holding the meeting at the Greenbrier Hotel were in favor of having it there - the percentage was 3 to 1 - but finally it was impossible to make arrangements that would have been satisfactory to the membership as a whole. But we promise you a good meeting in Charleston, and we hope there will be a record attendance. Come one, come all!

The death of Miss Eleanor Hamilton, Librarian of the Ohio County Public Library, on July 10, is a tragic loss to the profession and the state. She suffered a cerebral hemorrhage in the afternoon on Friday, July 7, and died on the following Monday afternoon. Those who knew her will remember her charm and wit, and the vigor and poise that marked her; it is difficult to think of the affairs of the Association being carried on without her.

ANNUAL MEETING 1949

The 1949 meeting of the Association, held at Morgantown on October 28 and 29, attracted a satisfactory attendance, and was enjoyed by all the delegates. Approximately 60 librarians, trustees, and friends of libraries from all sections of the state were present. Dr. John W. Draper of the University faculty spoke wittily and informingly on "Impressions of Libraries and Universities in Present-Day Europe," on Friday afternoon; earlier, a selection of special interest films from the University Library's collection was shown. A tea was given for all delegates by the University Library Staff Association following Dr. Draper's address, and in the evening a banquet at the Hotel Morgan was highlighted by an address by Mr. Ralph Munn, Director, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh. His subject, "The Public Library Inquiry," was stimulating and provocative, and evoked general discussion.

On Saturday, the regular business meeting was held, followed by luncheon meetings of public librarians, school and college librarians, and library trustees and Friends of the Library.

Officers for 1949/1950 are:

President, Mr. Charles E. Butler, Librarian, West Virginia University Library.

Vice-President and President-Elect, Miss Mary E. Wattles, West Virginia University Library.

Secretary, Miss Elizabeth Lawrence, Morgantown High School.

Au

un
Li
si
18
or
Co
Ju
Al
re
za
th

Treasurer, Mrs. Vivian R. Boughter, West Liberty State College.

Section chairman elections were as follows:

Public Library Section: Miss Frances Alderson, Kanawha County Public Library.

College Library Section: Mr. Harold Jones, Fairmont State College Library.

Friends of the Library: Mrs. I. D. Humphreys, President, Ronceverte.

Appointments are as follows:

Nominating Committee: Miss Katherine C. Dwyre, Chairman; Mrs. Eleanor Peterson; Mrs. Elizabeth Estill.

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws: Miss Ethel Green, Chairman; Miss Ruth E. Figgatt; Miss Virgie Harris.

Membership Chairman: Miss Katherine C. Dwyre.

Committee to Study Problems Involved in Production of West Virginia Libraries: Mr. Floyd Miller, Chairman; Mrs. Madalyn Bradford; Miss Virginia Ebeling; Miss Dora Ruth Parks; Miss Mary E. Wattles.

ALA FEDERAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE WASHINGTON MEETING

"The Federal Relations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Raymond Lindquist, met at the Hotel Congressional, Washington, D. C., April 16-18, 1950, to draft a federal relations program for consideration by ALA members and groups, and for review by the Council at the Cleveland conference in July. Eleven committee members, five ALA staff members, twenty library and government specialists, as well as representatives of non-library organizations, reviewed library interests at the federal level. Representatives of the Grange, PTA and similar organizations expressed a vital interest in the development of our future legislative program. Recognition of the limited financial resources of the Washington office gave legislative problems priority, although non-legislative responsibilities were recognized as well, particularly in the fields of research libraries, international relations, the Library of Congress and the USOE.

"Public Library Development was recommended for top legislative priority even though reintroduction of the Library Demonstration Bill was not thought feasible. Tentative outlines were made for a bill designed: to strengthen state library extension agencies; to stimulate public library service and encourage public library demonstrations; to provide a preliminary survey of state library agencies; a definition of purpose designed to retain and enlarge the support given the Library Demonstration Bill; development of a formula for federal aid; provisions for the strengthening of USOE to offer consultant, clearing house, and fiscal services; limitations of the purposes for the expenditure of funds; amounts of funds; duration of bill; and protection from federal control. ALA groups, federal officials, members of Congress, and friends will be consulted before any bill is drafted and criticisms and suggestions will be welcomed."

Mr. Robert North, Jr., Librarian of the Kanawha County Public Library, Charleston, will serve as Federal Coordinator for West Virginia. He will relay information, developments and ideas between the Association and the ALA Washington Office.

PERSONNEL EBB AND FLOW

Miss Alice Wilson, Head of the Catalog Department of the Kanawha County Public Library since 1946, resigned July 31 to marry Mr. George Fruth and live in Mt. Vernon, Ohio....

Miss Jane Brugger, First Assistant for the past few years, has been appointed her successor .... Best wishes to all ....

Miss Bernice E. Headings has been appointed librarian at Alderson-Broaddus College ....

Mrs. Eleanor M. Peterson has returned to the Huntington Public Library as head of the Circulation Department after an absence of a year. Mrs. Peterson in addition to her duties in that department is the "Wonderland Lady" over station W.S.A.Z. with a program of stories for children called "Wonderland Tales" which may be heard each Sunday at 12:30....

Miss Frances A. Alderson, Head, Extension Department, Kanawha County Public Library, is attending the graduate school of the University of London this summer, where she will study contemporary British literature. Our envy is as green as England. Her readers around the county will doubtless be wanting a subscription to the Times Literary Supplement for the Bookmobile ....

Miss Carolyn Hansen (Ohio County Public Library) has had leave of absence since September and has attended Western Reserve University Library School where she received her M. S. in June ....

Mrs. Jamie Graham, new head of Garnet Branch (Kanawha County Public Library) since September 15, 1949 came from Atlanta University Library School. Garnet opened a Browsing Nook with a tea in February ....

Miss Ruth E. Figgatt, Assistant Librarian in charge of classifying and cataloging (Fairmont State College) who joined the staff in August, is a graduate of Marshall College. Prior to attending Drexel Institute School of Library Science, she taught botany and served as Acting Librarian at Rio Grande College, Ohio. At Fairmont she teaches several sections of the required course in the use of the library and is teaching a class in botany during the illness of its regular instructor ....

New at West Virginia University Library: Mr. Howard H. Lapham, Western Reserve '49, Assistant Librarian; Mr. Charles W. Shetler, University of Pittsburgh '49, Curator of the West Virginia Collection; Mr. Wilbur Glenn Shaffer, Drexel '40, Senior Cataloger; Miss Carol Rae Casto, Peabody '41, Junior Cataloger; Miss Betty Heavener, Peabody, Circulation Department; Miss Elizabeth Downey, Peabody '48, Technical Processes Department ....

New at Kanawha County Public Library: Miss Jane Brand, who attended both University of Michigan and University of Illinois Library Schools became Head, Reference Department, September 1, 1949 .... Mr. Robert Mund, librarian assistant, Extension Department, came on September 1, 1949, from McGill Library School, bringing experience in five other libraries. Mrs. Mund is from Scotland. They met in Montreal and married in Charleston last November .... Mrs. Margaret Hilliard joined the Circulation Department in September 1949. She hails from the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library in Washington .... Robert North, Jr., succeeded Charles E. Butler, as Librarian of Kanawha County Public Library, November 1, 1949. Formerly at the Buffalo Public Library, he came to Charleston from Emory University Library.

Miss Leota White, Wisconsin '49, left West Virginia University Library for Japan in July .... Miss Julia Sullivan left Charleston for Peoria in November .... Miss Martha Wright of Charleston became Mrs. Edward Wharton on October 6 .... Miss Lenore Ledgerer left Morgantown for the University of Vermont in March .... Davis and Elkins' Miss Virgie Harris will be enrolled at Western Reserve next year ....

ACTIVITIES

The Kanawha County Public Library annual report for the year ending April 30, 1950, will soon be off the press. Copies are free on request. Highlights for 1949-1950: budget up 8.7% to $125,000; borrowers up 12% to 30,890; circulation up 14% to 443,000. Budget for 1950/1951: $146,000. Congratulations to all ....

Articles by Mrs. Madalyn M. Bradford, of the Huntington Public Library and Miss Frances Beare, of Local 420, I. L. G. W. W. in ALA's Library Service to Labor Newsletter, March-April 1950, deal with Huntington's book service to plants. (Copies free from Miss Dorothy Bendix, Chairman, Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups, Newark Public Library, 5 Washington Street, Newark 1, New Jersey).

The new library now under construction at Fairmont State College was planned, according to Mr. Harold D. Jones, Librarian, as a library, housed in a modern building, rather than as a building into which some kind of library will be installed. It is of modular construction, 59 x 137 feet and three floors high. Made of brick and glass and steel, it will harmonize with other campus buildings, but is entirely functional in that ornamental trim has been omitted. The first floor includes an audio-visual center, sloped floor screening room, pre-view room, sound proofed listening booths, a listening room, art materials room--two seminars, and a reserve book reading room. The second and third floors are reading and reference rooms. There is no stack as such and no internal weight-bearing walls. Shelves are surrounded by reading areas. There is a periodical lounge and a West Virginia lounge. A typing room has been provided for the use of readers.

Ceilings are 9½ feet high and are to be covered with acoustical material. Lighting will be from flush-mounted fluorescent fixtures. Linotile will be used for flooring in reading rooms and work rooms. Asphalt tile will be used on the ground floor. Windows will be double thickness twindow or thermopane. All air will enter through a percipitron with automatic thermostatic and humidity control. Heat will be provided by gas. Provision has been made for space for air-cooling equipment when funds can be secured.

In general, the planning was the joint effort of a Library Building Committee, including a member of the student body, and the architects. We have tried to feature accessibility, informality, good lighting and ventilation, rather than monumentality and impressiveness. All this for $407,593.00.

L. D. Schmidt and Son are the architects. Winning bid was submitted by Jarvis-Courtney, Contractors, of Clarksburg, West Virginia.

The Children's Museum of Charleston, Inc. is now underway. Organized and supported by the Junior League, it has quarters in the Kanawha County Public Library next door to the Boys and Girls Department. It boasts a planetarium seating about 25. Its program consists of numerous activities and temporary exhibits. It does not collect, but even so it reached the expansion stage before it opened its doors in March.

A new building was purchased recently in Barboursville by the Board of Trustees of the Huntington Public Library to be used as a branch library building. The Barboursville library which has outgrown its present quarters hopes to occupy the new building as soon as remodeling can be completed, which will probably be by midsummer.

Residents of the town of Barboursville as the result of a campaign conducted by the Barboursville Woman's Club contributed eleven hundred dollars toward the purchase price of the building.

Cabell County with a population of 96,508 according to postal estimates is served by three public libraries and a bookmobile which the school children have named "Gulliver". The Cabell County system is operated by an independent library board, properly known as the Huntington Cabell Library Board, whose president is H. R. Pinckard, newspaper editor of Huntington. Other members of the board are W. B. Anderson, treasurer, department store executive; Mrs. Douglas Tomkies, civic leader; J. N. Waldeck, insurance executive; B. F. Beaman, interior decorator; and James Brady, merchant of Barboursville.

The Ohio County Public Library

has joined an audio-visual aids project sponsored by Oglebay Institute patterned after the one in Cleveland first demonstrated through the aid of the Carnegie Foundation. Under the plan, each of the ten participating libraries will have a collection of sound movies to circulate to the public and the collection will be changed each month.

OCPL is purchasing a Recordak reader and prints of the Wheeling Intelligencer which were microfilmed at the University Library. Also being purchased are a projector and all of the necessary equipment to facilitate the audio-visual program.

A new community library was opened in Kenova in temporary quarters recently under the sponsorship of the Kenova Woman's Club. A war memorial building now under construction will provide new quarters for the library when completed.

A series of radio programs called "Know Your Public Library", broadcast each Sunday evening at seven P.M. over radio station W.H.T.N. in Huntington, began several weeks ago. The series consists of programs planned to show the many types of work that go on in a public library as well as talks by staff members on the new books.

For most of the staff of the Huntington Public Library speaking before a microphone was an entirely new experience, and several suffered badly from "mike fright". After the first plunge, however, it proved to be an enjoyable experience. Whenever male voices are required members of the public are asked to help. They too, seem to be enjoying the experience. Programs are informal and few of them require scripts.

The Library of West Virginia University has reported that 7,096 films were distributed for use at 16,125 showings in the period. Forty-five new films were purchased and 60 films deposited for use by Government agencies and companies during the past year.

Films acquired since March include:

"Celite - the story of the Diatom"; "Eternally Yours - the Story of Wrought Iron"; "Federal Reserve Bank and You"; "Honey Bee"; "Human Reproduction"; "It's the Maine Sardine"; "Mint"; "People of Norway"; "Shortest Way Home"; "This World of Ours - Manitoba"; "Today's Chicks"; "United States Treasury"; "Winter Carnival" and "Improving Chickens by Crossing Inbreds". A complete catalog of films has been published.

The University Library has acquired a complete file of the New York Times on microfilm ....

In addition to Fairmont State College, West Virginia State College at Institute is also acquiring a new library building. Designed by Charleston's Tucker and Silling, good progress in actual construction is reported .... It is rumored that West Virginia Wesleyan likewise has a new library in the planning stage; Davis and Elkins has hopes, at least, and Ohio County Public Library has new rubber linoleum and cool-vent awnings .... Work began last March on the addition that will provide space for an additional 200,000 volumes and many more readers at West Virginia University. Four new stack levels are planned to go above the present five levels, and a new floor of public rooms will be used for a public documents reading room, a rare book room, a biological and physical sciences reading room, and a West Virginia Collection room. It is hoped that the new space can be used for the beginning of the 1951 fall term ....

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION

Demonstrations have been started in Calhoun, Jackson and Ritchie counties. The Commission has been busy ordering books, buying bookmobiles, and procuring a staff. Bookmobile schedules start in the demonstration counties in July.

These demonstrations of county-wide public library service are under the supervision of Miss Elizabeth Ball, who comes to West Virginia with a background of regional library experience both in Massachusetts and Vermont. Two other professional

has joined an audio-visual aids project sponsored by Wesleyan Institute patterned after the one in Cleveland. First demonstrated through the aid of the Carnegie Foundation. Under the plan, each of the ten participating libraries will have a collection of sound movies to circulate to the public and the collection will be shared each month.

Co-operating in promoting a beneficial reading habit of the Wheeling Intelligencer which sponsors a Wheeling Public Library. Over 1000 books purchased and a promotion and [illegible] the audio-visual program.

A new commonwealth film [illegible] in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, where the opening [illegible] a new library [illegible] commonwealth [illegible] the library which [illegible] of radio [illegible] Lewisburg [illegible] Greenbrier [illegible] Lewisburg [illegible] Greenbrier [illegible] Lewisburg [illegible] Greenbrier

staff members will be added to the Commission staff as assistants to Miss Ball. They are Miss Donna Belat of Clarksburg, and Mr. Harold Harlan of Columbia, Missouri. Miss Belat graduates from Columbia University Library School this month and Mr. Harlan from University of Illinois Library School in August. Local assistants who will drive the bookmobiles and do office work are Mr. William Staats of Ripley, and Mr. Lee McIntyre of Harrisville.

Increased services from local libraries in the area will be provided by Commission staff members. Already the newly established town library at Ravenswood has become an extremely busy spot. More than 600 books were circulated during the first month that library was open. At Cairo the first deposit in a local store consisted of 170 books. During the first week 40 of the 170 books were borrowed by residents of the community.

At Commission headquarters activities have been concentrated on getting new books and preparing them for use in the demonstration counties and in the continuation of services which have been offered on a statewide basis since the beginning of the Commission. Mrs. Paul Widem is full time cataloger. She came to the Commission in October. She was formerly a member of the Kanawha County Public Library staff. Before her marriage in May she was Miss Barbara Davis. Mrs. Budd Gambee, formerly a part time staff member, has been employed full time since October. She is in charge of book orders and does field work with Farm Women and other groups.

Assistants at headquarters are Mrs. John R. Oliver, Mrs. Ernest Ogden, and Miss Barbara Daddezio.

POSTSCRIPT

It seemed, in the beginning, wisest to leave this issue of West Virginia Libraries editorially anonymous, for reasons that must be obvious; to slip it, figuratively, under your door in the dead of night, unsigned, its origin unknown. But caution might as well be cast aside; in the event that anyone wishes to complain, to correct, to demand retraction or apology, to sue, or even to praise, he may address Charles Butler, from whose office, on a summer afternoon, this communication has emanated. The purpose of this issue is threefold. First, it is intended as an announcement of the 1950 meeting, and as a sincere invitation to attend it. Please come if you can .... Second, it is an appeal to those of you who have not paid your dues to send them to Mrs. Boughter - individual memberships, $2.00, institutional, $5.00. Finally, its purpose is to provide, at least for library serial records, a whole volume for the period between June 1949 and the next issue in 1950, which will be Volume IV, Number 1.

As you have seen, unless you've skipped, this has been a sort of patchwork issue, items taken from this and that, here and there, threaded together with those overworked but handy dots .... It lacks emphasis and pattern, to be sure, and for this, apologies. But it at least reflects activity: steel beams going into place, riveting, branch library doors opening, the almost imperceptible but satisfactory sound of budgets increasing, perhaps a little like the sound of bread dough rising, the scratching of pens across applications and resignations, the breathing sound that goes with planning, with not standing still .... If time had permitted, there should have been news of Clarksburg, Parkersburg, Marshall College, the high school libraries, Concord, Lewisburg, and all the others who make up the West Virginia Library Association. They are omitted reluctantly, and only because this issue is the patchwork it is and there is nothing immediate of all of them at hand - next time it will be different.

LIBRARY
WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY